

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Amendment to the Specification

The specification has been amended to provide cross-references to related co-pending applications, which were inadvertently omitted at the time of filing.

Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

Submitted herewith as a separate paper is an IDS citing all of the prior art references cited in the related application (U.S. Patent Application No. 09/982,452) but not cited in the present application. The IDS also cites prior art cited in an International Search Report (ISR) issued to a PCT application based on the U.S. Patent Application No. 09/982,452.

Also submitted herewith as attachment for the Examiner's information is a copy of the Office Actions dated February 27, 2003, July 14, 2003, and December 17, 2003 in the U.S. Patent Application No. 09/982,452.

Applicants hereby respectfully request early consideration and acknowledgement of the prior art references cited in the IDS.

Claim Status and Amendment to the Claims

Claims 1-42 are now pending.

The Examiner is thanked for her kind allowance of claims 21-26, and her kind finding of allowable subject matter in claims 1 and 15 if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph, set forth in the Office Action.

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended to further particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention. The text of claims 2-14, 16-20, 27-36 is unchanged, but their meaning is changed because they depend from amended claims.

New claims 37-42 have been added by this amendment and also particularly point out and distinctly claim subject matter regarded as the invention.

No "new matter" has been added by the amendment.

Objection to Drawing

FIGS. 1-5 stand objected to for because they should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art--. FIGS. 1-5 have been amended to be labeled as "PRIOR ART" in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. With this amendment, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The 35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-20 and 27-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being allegedly incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. In the Final Office Action, the Examiner specifically alleges that the limitation of "storing clock arrival time and slope" recited in claims 1 and 15 lacks the

required functional/structural cooperative relationship with the remaining claimed limitations. The dependent claims stand rejected because they depend from the rejected claims.

Claims 1 and 15 have been amended such that the measurement of the clock arrival time and slope is also recited in these claims so as to provide functional/structural cooperative relationship therewith. With this amendment, withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that the claims are now in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

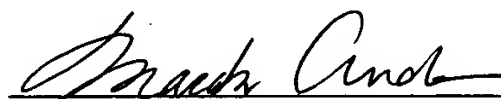
The Examiner is thanked for her kind allowance of claims 21-26, and her kind finding of allowable subject matter in claims 1 and 15 if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C 112, second paragraph. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action. However, Applicants point out that the reasons for allowability of the above referenced claims are not limited to the reasons for allowance as set forth in the Office Action, and that additional reasons for allowability may exist, each of which may be independently sufficient to establish the patentability of one or more pending claims.

Applicants respectfully reserve the right to introduce, articulate, or otherwise comment on any such additional reasons for allowance as may be appropriate in any future proceedings concerning the claimed invention.

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, an interview would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
THELEN REID & PRIEST, LLP

Dated: May 13, 2004



Masako Ando

Limited Recognition under 37 CFR §10.9(b)

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